

Senior Republicans Rebuke Cruz over Attacks on Leader

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks to reporters following a rare Sunday Senate session on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sunday, July 26, 2015. Senior Senate Republicans lined up Sunday to rebuke Cruz for attacking Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, an extraordinary display of intraparty division played out live on the Senate floor. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

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Obama: Kenya at 'crossroads' between peril and promise

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Declaring Kenya at a “crossroads” between promise and peril, President Barack Obama on Sunday pressed the nation of his father’s birth to root out corruption, treat women and minorities as equal citizens, and take responsibility for its future.

Closing his historic visit with an address to the Kenyan people, Obama traced the arc of the country’s evolution from colonialism to independence, as well as his own family’s history here. Today, Obama said, young Kenyans are no longer constrained by the limited options of his grandfather, a cook for the country’s former British rulers, or his father, who left to seek an education in America. “Because of Kenya’s progress — because of your potential — you can build your future right here, right now,” Obama told the crowd of 4,500 packed into a sports arena in the capital of Nairobi. But he bluntly warned that Kenya must make “tough choices” to bolster its fragile democracy and fast-growing economy.

Obama’s visit here, his first as president, captivated a country that views him as a local son. Thick crowds lined the road-

ways to watch the presidential motorcade speed through the city Sunday, some climbing on rooftops to get a better view. The audience inside the arena chanted his name as he finished his remarks.

The president left Kenya Sunday afternoon, pausing longer than normal atop the stairs to Air Force One to wave to the crowd, a huge grin on his face. He arrived two hours later in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, where he met with diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in the evening.

Obama has written emotionally about his first visit to Kenya as a young man nearly 30 years ago, and he recounted many of those same memories in his remarks Sunday. The battered Volkswagen his sister drove. Meeting his brothers for the first time. The airport employee who recognized his last name. “That was the first time that my name meant something,” he said.

The president barely knew his father, who died in 1982 after leaving the U.S. to return to Kenya. However, Obama has numerous family members in the country, including his half-sister Auma Obama, who introduced her brother Sunday.

“He’s one of us,” she said. “But we’re happy to share him with the world.”

The bulk of Obama’s address was a candid commentary on the East African nation’s future. He spent considerable time warning about the risks of

government corruption, calling it an “anchor” that could weigh down the country’s promising future. “Too often here in Kenya corruption is tolerated because that’s how it’s always been done,” he said. “Here in Kenya, it’s time to change habits.”

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has taken steps to tackle corruption by suspending four Cabinet secretaries and 16 other senior officials amid an investigation into allegations of dishonesty. But the action has been met with skepticism by the public because in the past, suspensions of senior officials haven’t resulted in anyone being convicted of a crime. Some officials even returned to their jobs before investigations were complete.

Kenyatta has been under public pressure to address corruption following re-

views of his two-year-old government that claimed his administration is more corrupt than previous administrations.

Obama urged an end to old tribal and ethnic divisions that are “doomed to tear our country apart. He spent significant time imploring Kenyans to respect the rights of women and girls, saying that marginalizing half of a country’s population is “stupid.” And he called for an end to forced marriages for girls who should otherwise be attending school and the tradition known as “genital mutilation.”

“These traditions may date back centuries. They have no place in the 21st century,” he said.

The president drew on the recent debate in the U.S. over the Confederate battle flag, a Civil War-era relic that is seen by many as a racist symbol. □



President Barack Obama delivers a speech, in front of American and Kenyan flags, at the Safaricom Indoor Arena in the Kasarani area of Nairobi, Kenya Sunday, July 26, 2015. Obama is traveling on a two-nation African tour where he will become the first sitting U.S. president to visit Kenya and Ethiopia. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

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Senior Republicans rebuke Cruz over attacks on leader

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior Senate Republicans lined up Sunday to rebuke Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz for attacking Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, an extraordinary display of intraparty division played out live on the Senate floor. As the Senate met for a rare Sunday session, Sens. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and John Cornyn of Texas each rose to counter a stunning floor speech Cruz gave on Friday accusing McConnell of lying. None of them mentioned Cruz by name but the target of their remarks could not have been clearer. The drama came as the Senate defeated a procedural vote to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law and took a step toward reviving the federal Export-Import Bank, both amendments on a must-pass highway bill.

"Squabbling and sancti-



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., accompanied by Secretary for the Majority of the Senate Laura Dove, heads into the Senate chamber as the Senate convenes for a Sunday session on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sunday, July 26, 2015. Senior Senate Republicans lined up Sunday to rebuke Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz for attacking McConnell, an extraordinary display of intraparty division played out live on the Senate floor.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

mony may be tolerated in other venues and perhaps on the campaign trail, but they have no place among colleagues in the United States Senate," said Hatch, the Senate's president pro tempore. Cruz is among 16 Republican presidential

contenders.

"The Senate floor has even become a place where senators have singled out colleagues by name to attack them ... and impugn their character in blatant disregard for Senate rules." "Such misuses of the Sen-

ate floor must not be tolerated," Hatch said.

After Hatch spoke, Cruz rose to defend himself for making the accusation that McConnell had lied when he denied striking a deal to allow a vote to revive the Export-Import Bank. Far from backing down, Cruz reiterated his complaint about McConnell. "My saying so may be uncomfortable but it is a simple fact, entirely consistent with decorum, and no member of this body has disputed that promise was made and that promise was broken."

Cruz's floor speech Friday had brought nearly unheard-of drama and discord to the Senate floor. But the responses to it were just as remarkable, as senior Republicans united to defend an institution they revere and take down a junior colleague of their own party who's gone from being an occasional nuisance, to a threat to

the Senate's very ability to function with order.

No senator rose to Cruz's defense.

For his part, McConnell said that given support for the Export-Import Bank, no "special deal" was needed to bring it to a vote.

The little-known bank is a federal agency that helps foreign customers to buy U.S. goods. Conservatives oppose it as corporate welfare and are trying to end it. They won an early round, when congressional inaction allowed the bank to expire June 30 for the first time in 81 years.

But on Sunday, senators voted, 67-26, to advance legislation to revive the bank across a procedural hurdle, making it likely that it will be added to the highway bill. On a separate vote, legislation to repeal Obama's health care law failed to advance over a procedural hurdle. Sixty votes were needed but the total was 49-43. □

Gunman in theater shooting had history of vengeance

Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, Louisiana (AP)

— John Russell Houser terrified his own family and ranted in online forums about African-Americans, Jews and gays, long before

paranoid, blamed everyone but himself, alienated his family and survived in a world of self-imposed isolation.

"If you gave me a list of names, I would have

In 2001, the city of LaGrange, Georgia, revoked Houser's liquor license, citing a series of convictions for selling beer to minors. Houser responded by unfurling a large banner on

all his guns from the house. He stormed into his daughter's office, then to another relative's house, where police were called and intervened. Houser's wife told officers he had a history of depression and bipolar disorder. A judge agreed he should be involuntarily committed to a mental hospital.

Despite his history, Houser was able to walk into an Alabama pawnshop and buy a Hi-Point .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun in February 2014, just as his life began its final downward spiral. His wife of 30 years filed for divorce in March and wrote they had been separated since 2012. Their home had gone into foreclosure when they split, and she had not been able to find him.

Norman Bone, who bought Houser's home at a 2014 foreclosure auction, said Houser poured concrete down the toilets and drains and threw paint and feces around the house. Bone said that the day Houser was evicted, he found the gas fireplace logs were removed and the gas starter tube was twisted out and ignited, which could have set the house on fire.

Then Houser disappeared, only to surface in Lafayette, Louisiana. People saw him rambling around town, said Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft. Houser drank. He talked to people about opening a two-minute oil-change service. He went to a food bank in Lake Charles, an hour's drive east. And he went to the Grand 16 movie theater several times, Craft said.

"Maybe he was testing. Maybe he was checking. Maybe he was determining, you know, is there anything that could be a soft target for him."

He settled into the back of the theater on July 18, alongside 25 people there for the movie. Then he stood silently and fired 20 times, killing two women and wounding nine people. As police cut off his escape, he put his gun to his head and pulled the trigger. □



In this 2001 photo, pub owner John Russell Houser speaks at a LaGrange City Council, in LaGrange, Ga. On Thursday, July 23, 2015, Houser stood up about 20 minutes into the "Trainwreck" movie and fired at people sitting in front of him, then aimed his handgun at others in Lafayette, La. (Nat Gurley/The Daily News via AP)

he opened fire in a Louisiana movie theater killing two women and injuring nine people last week, Houser, a mentally ill 59-year-old, had lost his wife and his house and left behind a paper trail documenting a long history of seeking vengeance.

In Houser's hometown of Columbus, Georgia, some former neighbors say his life was a decades-long collision course with disaster. "He's been known as a lunatic and a fool around this neck of the woods for years," said Patrick Williams, an antiques dealer who once filed a police report alleging Houser sold him a stolen iron fence at a flea market. "I wasn't a bit surprised when I saw his picture on TV. And no one else that knew him was surprised either."

Neighbors said Houser flew a Confederate flag, passed doomsday fliers around his neighborhood, pounded out angry online missives about corruption and injustice and spouted admiration for Adolf Hitler. He fit the familiar mold of mass shooters, said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University, author and prominent expert on massacres. Houser was

picked his out as the one that done it," said Vince Woodward, who was then active in local Republican politics in Columbus.

As early as 1989, Houser imagined himself as a crusader for righteousness.

Then 34, he tried to pay a man \$100 to burn down the office of a lawyer who represented a pornographic movie theater to "save the world, bring law and order," The Advocate newspaper reported, citing a court transcript.

But his intended arsonist turned out to be a police informant, and Houser was hauled into court.

A judge ordered Houser be evaluated at the psychiatric unit at a Columbus hospital, but the case was later dropped.

He soon became a regular guest on a local television show, where he held forth about the evils of abortion and women in the workplace. He was known as the black sheep of a well-regarded family. His father was the town's longtime tax commissioner.

Houser earned a degree in accounting, then went to law school. But he never took the bar exam and for a while ran a tavern instead.

the side of his tavern with a swastika with the phrase "Welcome to LaGrange," the local newspaper reported. He said at the time he was against Nazi philosophy and described the flag as an effort to mock a government willing to trample its citizens' rights. But Houser changed his mind a few years later. He wrote in online message boards that "Hitler is loved for the results of his pragmatism" and "decent people can retake the entire world, as Hitler proved."

In 2005, he caught the attention of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups and lone-wolf extremists, when he registered for former KKK leader David Duke's European-American Unity and Rights Organization conference in New Orleans.

In April 2008, Houser's 23-year-old daughter was planning to marry her fiancé the following month. But Houser believed they were too young. He made "ominous as well as disturbing statements," his family wrote in seeking a court order to keep him away. His wife, Kellie Maddox Houser, wrote that she was so worried about his unraveling mental state, she removed

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2016 Republicans use Trump, TV to make debate cut

**THOMAS BEAUMONT
NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — With the first debate of the Republican presidential campaign approaching, the party's 16 White House hopefuls are trying everything they can to improve their polling position. A candidate needs to place in the top 10 in an average of national polls to meet the criteria Fox News Channel has set to take the stage Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is attacking Donald Trump's credibility and branding the billionaire businessman "a cancer on conservatism." Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a conservative stalwart, popped up on a TV program popular with liberals. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham set his cellphone on fire.

Those who miss the cut for the debate risk being overlooked by voters and financial backers heading into the critical fall stretch before the state-by-state nominating contests start early in 2016.

"If you're not on the stage you're irrelevant, you don't matter," said Republican pollster Frank Luntz. "Unless you have some serious ad dollars, it's not a glass ceiling. It's a concrete ceiling."

At of this past week, former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former New York Gov. George Pataki, Santorum and Graham were outside the top 10. Others close to the edge include Ohio Gov. John Kasich, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Perry.

That would relegate them to a second-tier debate, only an hour-long airing before the prime-time event.

"In your heart of hearts, you want to see me debate Hillary Clinton," Fiorina, the only woman in the Republican contest, said with a grin, drawing applause Thursday from more than 100 people at a country club in Ames, Iowa, the state whose caucuses lead off the nominating contests.

"I would of course love to be on the debate stage, but we're going to keep going with or without it," she told reporters afterward. "The boys are going to fight, and I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing."

One guaranteed participant is Trump, despite incendiary comments about Mexican immigrants and Arizona Sen. John McCain's war record. Trump's remarks have drawn a



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally and picnic, Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

backlash in a party trying to expand its support among the growing Latino voting bloc and in which veterans are an influential constituency.

Boring in on Trump is one approach some rivals hope will help them to break through as the debate nears. Perry unloaded on Wednesday when he called Trump's campaign a "barking carnival act" and "toxic mix of demagoguery, mean-spiritedness and nonsense."

Perry pollster Greg Strimple said the goal of the speech

was part of a long-standing effort to raise his profile, not to get him in the debate. "We had long-planned a speech defending conservatism," Strimple said. "When Donald Trump made his negative comments, it provided us the perfect comparison." Supporters of Perry and Jindal are buying national cable ads that could boost their poll numbers ahead of the debate. On Friday, backers of Christie announced a new ad to air on Fox News.

Graham, even further

behind in polling, called Trump a "jackass" after the real estate executive said McCain was "not a war hero." McCain served as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War and was held for more than five years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down. Graham then starred in a video produced by a conservative website demonstrating how to destroy a cellphone after Trump publicly disclosed Graham's phone number during a campaign appearance in South Carolina. □

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Democrats fret over 'sharing economy,' Republicans seek edge



Republican presidential candidate, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, puts on his seat belt getting into an Uber car after speaking at Thumbtack, an online startup in San Francisco. The debate over ride-hailing firm Uber is laying bare divides in the Democratic Party and on the left about how to handle the new "sharing" economy. Republicans are hungry to exploit that ambivalence and make inroads into a wealthy sector of the tech industry.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The debate over ride-hailing firm Uber is laying bare divides in the Democratic Party and on the left about how to handle the new "sharing" economy. Republicans are hungry to exploit that ambivalence and make inroads into a wealthy sector of the tech industry.

In New York City this past week, liberal Mayor Bill de Blasio tried to limit the number of Uber drivers on the streets, only to be rebuked by the state's more centrist governor, Andrew Cuomo, also a Democrat. The mayor's administration decided to allow Uber to expand in the city for another year. That followed a pledge by the party's presidential front-runner, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to "crack down" on companies that classify workers as contractors rather than employees,

as critics contend Uber and other companies often do. Clinton did not identify Uber, whose lobbying operation is run by former Obama campaign manager David Plouffe and stocked with Democratic operatives. But her allusion led Jeb Bush, a Republican technophile who says he prefers his Apple watch to apple pie, to ride in an Uber vehicle during a campaign stop in San Francisco days later.

For years, Republicans have struggled to gain support in the technology industry, an effort hobbled by in part by their stance on social issues and net neutrality, which is the idea that Internet service providers should not manipulate, slow or block data moving across their networks. But the bright-blue precincts of Silicon Valley have become a regular stop on the Republican campaign

circuit.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul opened a campaign office at a San Francisco tech incubator. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio won the backing of Oracle founder Larry Ellison. He held a fundraiser for the senator, whose new book has a chapter with this title: "Making America Safe for Uber."

"There's a lot of folks out here who naturally fall into a libertarian place and in the past they were not feeling the love from the GOP," said Scott Banister, an investor who is raising money for Paul. "Obviously, if the Democratic Party is going to come down on the side of 'let's shut down these businesses,' that's going to force the issue." Liberals have increasingly questioned the impact of the industry during a time of scarce jobs and wage stagnation. Former Treasury Secretary

Larry Summers has noted that Apple employs a far smaller share of people than companies of its size did in the past. Silicon Valley and the surrounding Bay Area have become a symbol of the income inequality that Democrats bemoan.

But it is the recent, explosive growth of Uber and other "sharing economy" companies that have attracted the most concern. HomeJoy recently announced it would shut down in the face of four lawsuits alleging it should treat the people who clean homes on its behalf as employees rather than as independent contractors not entitled to the same workplace protections.

"If a technologist wants to

disrupt an industry that has middle-class jobs and replace them with insecure, not-as-good jobs, there has to be a conversation about that," said Heather McGee, president of the liberal think-tank Demos. "Just because there's an app doesn't mean it's anything different. ... It's a question as old as the economy."

Lyft, Uber or the grocery delivery service Instacart and others rely on independent contractors to provide services for a fee: driving, house cleaning, grocery shopping and the like.

Uber takes a commission from fees charged to its riders. The drivers, who can work as many or as few hours as they would like, get the rest. □

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Minister:

Greek bailout talks format still being negotiated

D. GATOPOULOS
D. NELLAS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece and rescue lenders are still working out the format of upcoming talks, the labor minister said Sunday, confirming a delay in the negotiations for a third international bailout.

Giorgos Katrougalos told private Skai television Sunday that pre-negotiation discussions were still ongoing.

"The way the negotiations will take place is still being discussed within the government," Katrougalos said.

Bailout negotiators from the European Commission, European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund had been due to start arriving in Athens last Friday to start talks for the new rescue package worth an expected 85 billion euros (\$93 billion).

But late Saturday, a gov-



Members of the Communist-affiliated PAME labor union shout slogans during an anti-austerity rally in Athens. Greece and rescue lenders are still working out the format of upcoming talks, the labor minister said Sunday.

(AP Photo/Giannis Papanikos)

ernment official said talks at a "technical level" were now set to start on Tuesday. The official asked not to be named because the negotiations were ongoing. Katrougalos said Finance

Minister Euclid Tsakalotos and other Cabinet colleagues were likely to meet directly with the inspectors — a move that had been previously ruled out by the country's left-wing govern-

ment.

"At the point we have reached, we are obliged to negotiate ... Faced with the prospect of financial collapse, we were forced to compromise," he said. □

Paris police open fire on car at Tour de France barrier

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Paris police were searching for four occupants of a car that struck a taxi and tried to crash barricades set up near the Tour de France finish line on Sunday morning, drawing police fire hours before the arrival of cyclists and spectators. Police said they didn't suspect terrorism. Police found the car with bullet impacts not far from the Place de la Concorde where police opened fire, according to a police official and a ranking official close to the investigation. They asked not to be identified by name because the investigation was ongoing. The car carried two men and two women, one of whom was injured on her upper body, the ranking official said, citing a witness at a hotel where the group sought a glass of water for her. It was not immediately clear if the woman had been hit by a bullet. Tour de France officials said the race wouldn't be affected by the incident.

Paris has been on edge since double attacks in January by Islamic extremists on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a Kosher grocery left 20 people dead, including the three attackers. Thousands of police and soldiers were deployed on the streets after the attack to protect sensitive sites and tourist attractions. Police had opened fire at the Place de la Concorde, where the cyclists make their final triumphant rounds to conclude the race. □

Tunisia overwhelmingly passes anti-terror law

B. BOUAZZA
P. SCHEMM

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's parliament voted overwhelmingly to pass the country's new anti-terror law after a pair of devastating attacks against tourists, but critics fear the new legislation may endanger the North African nation's hard-won freedoms.

Alone among the countries that underwent the 2011 uprisings of the Arab Spring, Tunisia emerged with a democracy, but amid a rise in attacks by Islamic radi-

cals, the new government is increasingly considering stability and security over personal freedoms.

"There are many holes in the law that could open the way to human rights violations," said a statement by coalition of Tunisian 10 civil society groups, including the bar association, the journalists' union and several rights groups.

The law, which had languished in parliament for years and was approved late Friday, was fast-tracked after gunmen in March attacked the

national museum in Tunis and killed 21 foreign tourists. Three months later, another gunman attacked a resort in Sousse killing 38 tourists, mostly Britons. Since then, the government has mobilized 100,000 additional army and police units around the country, including 3,000 dedicated to guarding hotels and tourist sites. As the law was being debated, Tunisian police and military forces carried out a string of raids on homes across the country, arresting 16 people in the province of Bizerte on

Thursday, killing one.

On Saturday, the government announced that further raids had been carried out in the capital, the resort town of Sousse as well as in the southern city of Sfax. Two suspected militants were also killed by police in the central city of Kasserine.

The new law, which replaces one from 2003, is meant to aid this battle while still respecting human rights, according to Abada Kefi of the parliament's legislation committee, who described it as "a balanced law." □

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Turkey calls for NATO meeting to discuss security threats



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu speaks to the media in Ankara, Turkey, about airstrikes against Islamic State group forces and Kurdish rebel bases. Turkish jets struck camps belonging to Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, authorities said, the first strike since a peace deal was announced in 2013, as Ankara also bombed Islamic State positions in Syria.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey on Sunday called for a meeting of its NATO allies to discuss threats to its security and its airstrikes targeting Islamic State militants in Syria and Kurdish

rebels in Iraq.

The move came as Turkey's state-run media reported that Turkish F-16 jets again took off from the country's southeastern Diyarbakir air base to hit Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK targets across the border in north-

ern Iraq. There was no immediate confirmation of the report by TRT television, which came hours after authorities said PKK militants detonated a car-bomb near Diyarbakir, killing two soldiers and wounding four others. NATO announced

that its decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, will convene Tuesday after Ankara invoked the alliance's Article 4, which allows member states to request a meeting if they feel their territorial integrity or security is under threat. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said Turkey would inform allies about the airstrikes which followed an IS suicide bombing near Turkey's border with Syria that left 32 people dead, and an IS attack on Turkish forces, which killed a soldier. Turkey requested the meeting, which includes ambassadors of all 28 member countries, "in view of the seriousness of the situation after the heinous terrorist attacks in recent days," NATO said.

NATO itself is not involved in operations against the Islamic State group, although many of its members are. As an alliance, however, NATO is committed to helping defend Turkey. Turkey has simultaneously bombed Islamic State group positions near its border with Syria and Kurdish insurgents in northern Iraq. It has also carried out widespread police operations against suspected Kurdish and IS militants and other outlawed groups inside Turkey. Hundreds of people have been detained. Tensions flared with the Kurds following the IS suicide bombing, as Kurdish groups blamed the government for not doing enough to prevent IS operations. □

Officials: Iraqi forces retake Anbar University

SAMEER N. YACIOUB
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi government forces recaptured Anbar University from the Islamic State militant group Sunday after hours of fierce clashes, provincial officials said, as part of its push to reclaim territory across the embattled province.

The university, located 5 kilometers (3 miles) south of Anbar's provincial capital, the militant-held city of Ramadi, was under the

full control of government forces, which had entered the complex early Sunday amid intense combat with the militant group.

Athal al-Fahdawi, a provincial councilman said a number of buildings in and around the university complex have been badly damaged or destroyed, but that the militants retreated. Another Anbar councilman, Faleh al-Issawi, told The Associated Press that about two dozen Islamic State fighters were killed in

the clashes. He declined to provide more details. The Iraqi military launched a large-scale operation this month to retake Anbar province, in which most of the biggest cities are held by the Islamic State group. The loss of Ramadi in mid-May recalled the collapse of Iraqi security forces last summer in the face of the Islamic State group's blitz into Iraq that saw it capture a third of the country, where it has declared an Islamic caliphate. □

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Al-Shabab suicide truck bomb hits main Somali hotel, kills 9

ABDI GULED

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia

(AP) — A suicide bomber rammed a truck rigged with explosives into the blast walls around one of Mogadishu's most secure hotels, severely damaging the building and killing nine people including a Chinese diplomat,

Somalia's foreign minister said Sunday.

Abdisalam Omer told The Associated Press by phone from Djibouti that a Kenyan diplomat was also wounded in the attack.

The attack was claimed by the al-Qaida-linked Al-Shabab group and also wounded some 20 people. The walled, luxury Jazeera Hotel is considered the most secure in Somalia's capital and is frequented by diplomats, foreigners



An African Union (AU) soldier walks past the scene of destruction following a suicide car bomb attack in the capital Mogadishu, Somalia Sunday, July 26, 2015.

(AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

and visiting heads of state. "This is really scary — destroying the Jazeera hotel like this means no blast walls can make anyone safe," said bystander Yu-

suf Mohammed. The use of huge truck bombs is a relatively new phenomenon and throws into doubt whether any place in the capital is now adequately

protected.

While blast destroyed at least eight rooms and stunned the residents of the Somali capital, it wasn't as bad as it might have been

because the truck, which contained a ton of explosives, was stopped at the blast walls outside the hotel.

"The damage is big but a lot less because the truck bomb couldn't go beyond the walls that lay a few meters from the hotel's perimeter walls,"

said Mohammed Abdi, a police officer.

Nervous soldiers fired in the air to disperse a crowd who surged toward the hotel after the blast as medical workers transported wounded victims into awaiting ambulances.

The attack comes as Somali forces backed by troops from the African Union have launched an offensive, dubbed Operation Jubba Corridor, to push al-Shabab out of its last strongholds. □

Taliban take remote Afghan police base after mass surrender

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

The Taliban took control of a large police base in a remote part of northeastern Afghanistan after some 100 police and border guards surrendered and joined the insurgents following three days of fighting, security officials said Sunday.

The loss of the Tirgaran base in Badakhshan province late Saturday marked the largest mass surrender since U.S. and NATO forces concluded their combat mission at the end of last year. It highlighted the challenges facing Afghan security forces, which have seen their casualties soar in the face of stepped-up insurgent attacks.

The police base, in the province's Wardoj district, had been cut off as heavy rains swamped roads

into the area, said Gen. Baba Jan, Badakhshan province's police chief. It wasn't clear why reinforcements hadn't been flown into the area, though the province's steep valleys make aircraft landings difficult.

"No reinforcements were sent to help the police at the base for the past three days when they were under the attack and finally they had no option: They had to join the Taliban," said Abdullah Naji Nazari, the head of Badakhshan's provincial council.

Jan said the local police commander also joined the Taliban and handed over the base's weapons and ammunition.

The Taliban issued a statement saying they captured the base along with 110 police officers, their local commander and the head

of the local border police. It did not say whether the captives joined their ranks. Jan later said the Taliban had released all the policemen and allowed them to

return to their homes. He said it was unclear why the forces surrendered, insisting they have enough ammunition and supplies to hold out for weeks.

Last month hundreds of insurgents attacked security checkpoints in the province's Yamgan district, forcing police to abandon them. □



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Activist known for brash tactics among dozens held in China



In this image taken from video, activist Wu Gan is seen with the subtitle "I am Wu Gan. My internet name is "Super Vulgar Butcher" in Sanming city in southeastern China's Fujian province. Wu was formally arrested in July 2015 as part of a recent crackdown on a loosely allied group of more than 200 "rights-defender lawyers" and the activists associated with them. He is among dozens who remain detained and may eventually stand trial.

(Photo via AP Video)

DIDI TANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Bearded, bald and burly ex-soldier Wu Gan calls himself The Ultra Vulgar Butcher. He poses for online portraits brandishing knives in both hands that he says he'll use to "slaughter the pigs" among local officials who've done wrong. Since 2009, he championed a confrontational approach to compel police, local officials or the courts to address alleged unfairness in China. He traveled to remote communities to shame local authorities into doing the right thing. His stunts included putting the likeness of a local of-

ficial's face on a naked mannequin and threatening to hold a funeral service for a top judge. When authorities held a fellow activist at a hotel, Wu had an open invitation for like-minded people to visit the detainee, prompting his release by jittery officials wary of a crowd.

"I don't want to see policies being dictated by hooligans who will do harm to the nation. And so we go out there to help people, with the simple hope that our action will make this country a better place to live," he said in a 2012 video he made for supporters in the event that he should ever disappear or be ar-

rested.

That day has come. Wu was formally arrested this month, as part of a recent crackdown on a loosely allied group of more than 200 "rights-defender lawyers" and the activists associated with them. He is among dozens who remain detained and may eventually stand trial.

They are the latest group targeted by the government under President Xi Jinping as it dismantles — one by one — any group with the potential to gain enough influence to threaten the Communist Party's monopoly on power. The party also has launched campaigns since 2013 to hush influential online bloggers, and to lock up members of the New Citizens movement that had openly called for greater government accountability.

Authorities have accused the lawyers of sabotaging the country's legal system, including by arranging illegal demonstrations outside the court venues of cases they were involved with. The lawyers and activists argue that public action is sometimes necessary to get any justice at all in the largely party-controlled courts.

Wu was perhaps the highest-profile of the non-law-

yer activists in this latest group, known for his knack at transforming online sentiment into on-the-ground activism. He was nominally an employee of Beijing law firm, but it was unclear whether he was paid.

Activists like Wu and the lawyers focused on individual cases instead of challenging Communist Party policy at the national level, making them a greater headache for local offi-

cials than for Beijing. But their ability to organize and bring people out on the ground apparently made authorities nervous.

"If his acts did not inspire fear in them, why are they arresting him?" said fellow activist Zhu Chengzhi.

Zhu credits Wu for his release in early 2013, when he was under house arrest in a hotel in the southern city of Shaoyang because of online activism. □

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Guyana: Dutch to help with drainage system

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana says the Netherlands has offered to help improve the South American country's drainage system amid bouts of heavy flooding. Public Infrastructure Minister David Patterson said Saturday that Dutch officials will send a technical team to study the drainage

system and recommend improvements.

Guyana is a former Dutch colony.

Heavy rains in Guyana last week knocked private radio and TV stations off air and forced the main public university to cancel classes. The government also turned public buildings into emergency shelters.

Flooding is a recurring problem because the capital of Georgetown and nearby areas are up to six feet below sea level.

The Dutch designed Guyana's drainage system some 400 years ago. It is a complex network of canals and drains that lead to floodgates in the Atlantic Ocean. □

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US Virgin Islands to file violations against rum operations

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— The U.S. Virgin Islands' environmental agency plans to file a violation order against two rum producers on St. Croix as residents of several communities complain of a black mold persistently staining their properties, cars and boats. Jamal

Nielsen, spokesman for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, said authorities are "in the process of crafting a violation order" against Cruzan Rum and Diageo USVI, a subsidiary of global liquor giant Diageo PLC that produces the rum for the Captain Morgan brand. It's not yet clear if any corrective action

will be ordered. Exasperated residents in several St. Croix communities say a sooty-looking fungus has been accumulating in their neighborhoods, including on water cisterns and fruit trees.

They blame it on the ethanol from neighboring rum facilities. Andrea Daley, the president of the Enfield Green Estates own-

ers association, said the mold started growing on exterior surfaces exposed to sunlight several years ago when Diageo built a rum storage facility. "It's been tough. We have a red-and-white boat that is parked up in our yard, but now it's black. We had a soursop tree but the leaves got so covered in black fungus that we had

to cut it down," she said Sunday during a phone interview.

Like residents around Scotland whisky storage sites and bourbon-making sections of the U.S. state of Kentucky, they believe the mold is "Baudoinia," a natural-occurring growth created by a chemical reaction involving emissions of ethanol. □

Colombia suspends raids on FARC camps following rebel truce

JACOBO GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's government is suspending aerial bombings of guerrilla camps in a bid to de-escalate fighting and breathe new life into struggling peace talks. President Juan Manuel Santos made the announcement Saturday night at a military ceremony in Cartagena, saying the confidence-building move was in response to the decision by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to declare a unilateral cease fire.

FARC leaders said on July 20 that they were resuming a unilateral truce the rebels had suspended two months earlier following an army bomb-



Special forces soldiers march in a military parade celebrating Colombia's 205 anniversary of independence from Spain, in Bogota, Colombia, Monday, July 20, 2015. Colombia's government is suspending aerial bombings of guerrilla camps in a bid to de-escalate fighting and breathe new life into struggling peace talks.
(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

ing of one of their camps that left 26 people dead. That raid in turn followed a series of deadly attacks by the FARC, including a

nighttime attack on an army platoon that killed 10 soldiers while they were asleep.

In March, Santos made a

similar gamble, banning one of the military's most-successful tactics in its fight against the rebels in recognition of progress the being made at the peace table. But since then, mistrust on both sides has grown as fighting has intensified. For the first time since peace talks began nearly three years ago polls show that more Colombians favor a military solution to the conflict than a negotiated settlement. Reflecting some of the cynicism this time around, Santos said that the ban on aerial bombings could be lifted if the FARC camps pose a risk to civilians or infrastructure targets. Nonetheless he tried to frame his move as a bid to accelerate talks after both sides agreed to

seek a bilateral cease fire in the coming months even before a final peace deal is reached.

"We've agreed to de-escalate the conflict. That means fewer deaths, less suffering and fewer victims," he said.

The government and the FARC have already reached agreements on land reform, participation in politics for ex-rebels and a joint strategy to curb drug trafficking. They've also announced a joint effort to remove unexploded land mines.

But several tough issues remain, the thorniest of which is rebel negotiators' demand they avoid any jail time for atrocities allegedly committed by troops under their command. □

Trinidad charges 11 in killing of prominent prosecutor

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)

— Authorities in Trinidad announced this weekend that they have charged 11 people in last year's killing of prominent prosecutor and former senator Dana Seetahal.

Deputy Police Chief Glen Hackett made the announcement during a televised address in which he apologized to her family for withholding information, saying it was necessary.

Seetahal was fatally shot in May 2014 after suspects in two cars opened fire after cutting off her vehicle in Trinidad's capital. Police said it appeared to be a professional hit. At least 15 shells were found at the scene in the residential Woodbrook neighborhood.

"It stands out as the most challenging case I've ever worked on," Hackett said, adding that international

law enforcement agencies helped local authorities. He declined to name the agencies.

Hackett declined to comment on a potential motive, saying the evidence would be presented in court. The suspects are scheduled to appear in court on Monday. Among those charged is Rajae Ali, son of one of the leaders of Jamaat al Muslemeen, an Islamic group

that organized a violent coup attempt nearly 25 years ago. Rajae previously told reporters that he was not involved in Seetahal's killing.

Seetahal was formerly an independent senator and an assistant solicitor general. The island's attorney general at the time said Trinidad's legal profession had lost a titan.

Hackett's announcement comes a day after an in-

mate and a police officer were killed following a violent prison outbreak in Port-of-Spain. Two of the three inmates who escaped remain at large.

The twin-island nation of Trinidad & Tobago is one of the most prosperous nations in the Caribbean because of natural gas and oil reserves, but it also has struggled with a high violence rate fueled by drug trafficking. □



Returning for family vacation; Famous Dutch Singer and TV Personality Frans Bauer at Divi Phoenix



1994 he landed his first national hit with the romantic starry-eyed *Als Sterren Aan De Hemel Staan*, and in 1997 he took Germany by storm with his album *Weil Ich Dich Liebe*, because I love you.

Frans Bauer's fame kept growing to the point of getting his own reality show, called *De Bauers*, in which his daily life, including his family life with wife Mariska van Rossenberg, is followed.

Bauer also designs a clothing line for the Vroom & Dreesmann retail chain, based in The Netherlands. Bauer who is seen here in the picture with Divi Resort's member of management, Gerrit Griffith won several awards and honors, including a knighthood, Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau, thanks to his charitable work and the Gouden Televizier-Ring, for the reality show he has been running on Dutch television, in previous years. □

PALM BEACH - Frans Bauer, his wife and four kids are again in Aruba, this time for three weeks.

A native of Roosendaal, in the Netherlands, Bauer is a popular singer with a specialty, namely *levenslied*, what the Dutch refer to as songs about life, with straight-to-the-heart lyrics and melody.

Having grown up in a trailer park, Bauer aspired to break away by means of music, from an early age. Inspired by Julio Iglesias, Elvis Presley and Koos Alberts, a fellow Dutch star,

Bauer managed to launch his career in 1987 when he recorded his first single: *Ben Je Jong*, translated into English as a question, *Are You Young?*

Dutch producers Rudi Schreijenberg and Emile Hartkamp gave him a hand with the technical aspects of the production, and the rest is history!

Bauer rose to local fame, then to national fame, as he participated in *All You Need Is Love*, a trendy TV show, in early 1992, where he was to choose two female fans for a date. In



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Beach till their next visit, but MooMba Beach is also going to miss them. But there is hope on the horizon: the Genoa Panini sandwiches, the family's favorite, will still

be on the menu, waiting for the next time that you will be coming down. See you again soon, and thanks! □



PALM BEACH - Yes, it's true the Montalbano family considers MooMba Beach as their home away from home. This great-looking bunch feels all the stress and tension of everyday life in New York vanish as soon as they sit down at the

bar. They are having the time of their lives on Aruba, not for the first time, not for the second time, no: for the fifteenth time already! Their annual family holiday is something that the entire Montalbano clan looks forward to and they all have

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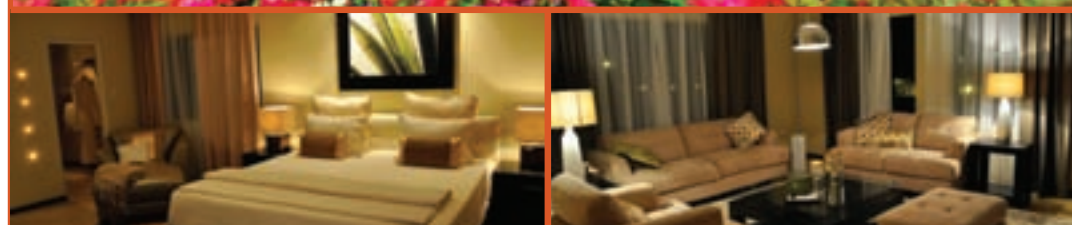
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Chris Froome wins 2nd Tour de France

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — All for one, one for all, and all bathed in yellow.

Arms over each other's shoulders, linked together in a long line of happiness, Tour de France winner Chris Froome and his teammates pedaled slowly over the finish line, soaking up the applause Sunday on the Champs-Elysees.

Three weeks of furious racing, of beating back both a tenacious Colombian, Nairo Quintana, and doping suspicions that are Lance Armstrong's poisonous legacy to cycling, were over.

Time for the winner's speech.

"The Maillot Jaune is special, very special," Froome said, using the yellow jersey's French name.

"I understand its history, good and bad," he said. "I will always respect it."

The Tour is still French. But British riders have won three of the last four: Bradley Wiggins in 2012 and now two for Froome, following his first win in 2013. That puts Britain equal with the United States, with three from Greg LeMond — and minus seven stripped from Armstrong.

Under suitably British weather, on rain-slickened roads, Froome took it easy on the last Stage 21, his work done having grimly resisted Quintana's late assault on his hard-won Tour lead the previous day on the final Alpine ascent.

The tired 160 riders — of 198 who started — didn't bother racing for much of the largely flat 110-kilometer (68-mile) ramble from Sevres, in the French capi-



Britain's Chris Froome, right, crosses the finish line arm-in-arm with his Sky teammate Geraint Thomas after winning the Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France, Sunday, July 26, 2015.

(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

tal's southwest.

Tour organizers stopped of 10 laps up and down the To minimize risk of crashes, the clock early, on the first Champs-Elysees' cobble-

stones.

That locked in Froome's lead to guarantee victory. He smiled broadly as he pedaled past flag-waving spectators. He still had to ride the laps to complete the full race distance of 3,354 kilometers (2,084 miles).

But knowing the title was his, he didn't have to panic when a paper bag got stuck in his back wheel. He simply stopped and changed bikes. He also had time to raise a glass of Champagne in the saddle and stop to put on a raincoat under the iconic yellow jersey.

While sprinters dashed ahead for the stage win — snatched by Andre Greipel, his fourth and Germany's sixth at this Tour — Froome and his teammates, wearing yellow stripes on their shorts and helmets, linked together for their slow-motion, chorus-line finish.

"This is your yellow jersey as much as it is mine," Froome said. Their powerful riding, chasing rivals in the mountains and protecting Froome on flats, was vital. So, too, was the meticulous planning of Dave Brailsford, the organizational brains at Froome's Team Sky, which has far surpassed its goal in 2009 of nurturing Britain's first Tour winner within five years. In a repeat of 2013, Quintana was again runner-up. But the margin was much smaller this time: 1 minute, 12 seconds, the tightest win since 2008.

Third-placed Alejandro Valverde, Quintana's Movistar teammate from Spain, made the podium for the first time, moving up from fourth last year. □

Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz, Biggio Enter the Hall of Fame

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Around The Horn:

Mets snap Greinke's scoreless streak, top Dodgers 3-2

NEW YORK (AP) — Zack Greinke's shutout streak ended at 45 2/3 innings when the Mets scored the first of two runs against him as New York beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Sunday off newcomer Juan Uribe's single off the wall in the 10th. Jacob deGrom outpitched Greinke in a marquee matchup that lived up to its billing, but Yasmani Grandal hit a tying single in the ninth as Los Angeles erased a two-run deficit against closer Jeurys Familia, who was trying for a four-out save. Greinke allowed a run in the third on a grounder by deGrom and another in the sixth when rookie Michael Conforto was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Jenry Mejia (1-0) pitched out of a jam in the top of the 10th, striking out rookie slugger Joc Pederson and retiring Howie Kendrick with a runner on third. Juan Nicasio (1-3) got the loss.

ROYALS 5, ASTROS 1

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — The Royals traded for right-hander Johnny Cueto, and then used Yordano Ventura's seven sharp innings to beat Dallas Keuchel and the Astros. Ventura (5-7) allowed one run and six hits in just his second win in his last seven starts. The Royals announced during the game that they had acquired Cueto from Cincinnati for minor league left-handers Brandon Finnegan, John Lamb



Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal, right, looks back for the call as New York Mets' Kirk Nieuwenhuis (9) scores on Jacob deGrom's third-inning RBI-single in a baseball game in New York, Sunday, July 26, 2015.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

and Cody Reed, drawing a big cheer at Kauffman Stadium.

Keuchel (12-5), who started for the American League in the All-Star Game, was tagged for a season-high 10 hits in 6 2/3 innings. He also allowed five runs, matching a season high.

PIRATES 3, NATIONALS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gerrit Cole became the majors' first 14-game winner, leading Pittsburgh to the victory. Cole allowed one run and seven hits in 7 2/3 innings while improving to 3-1 with a 2.40 ERA in four July starts. The right-hander struck out eight and walked none. Cole (14-4) also became the first Pittsburgh pitcher with 14 wins before August since Dock Ellis in 1971.

Danny Espinosa chased Cole with a single that put two runners on for Bryce Harper, who grounded out against left-hander Tony Watson. Mark Melancon picked up his major league-best 32nd save with a scoreless ninth.

Michael Taylor homered for NL East-leading Washington, and Joe Ross (2-3) struck out seven while pitching six innings of three-run ball.

PHILLIES 11, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP) — Ryan Howard homered for the second straight day and rookie Aaron Nola got his first major league win as Philadelphia completed a three-game series sweep. Maikel Franco also went deep as the major league-

worst Phillies collected 17 hits in their eighth win in nine games since the All-Star break. Franco and Dominican Brown each drove in three runs a day after Cole Hamels threw no-hitter against the Cubs. Nola (1-1) allowed four runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings in his second career start. The touted prospect also had an RBI single in Philadelphia's three-run fourth. With the game out of hand, Cubs catcher David Ross pitched a perfect ninth. He then hit a solo homer in the bottom half of the inning. Chicago right-hander Jason Hammel (5-5) was tagged for six runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 2, INDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Carlos

Rodon pitched a shutout into the seventh inning and Carlos Sanchez homered for the second straight day, powering the White Sox to the road win. Rodon and Sanchez, both rookies, helped the White Sox finish off their first four-game sweep in Cleveland since July 14-17, 2005. Chicago outscored the Indians 26-5 and never trailed in the series.

Rodon (4-3) recorded the longest outing of his career in his first win since June 20. The left-hander struck out nine and allowed five hits in 6 2/3 innings.

David Robertson allowed a run in the ninth before finishing for his 21st save.

The Indians have lost six straight at home and are 19-30 at Progressive Field. Danny Salazar (8-6) yielded two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

YANKEES 7, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Yankees right-hander Nathan Eovaldi pitched impressively into the ninth inning, and Chase Headley and Stephen Drew homered. Eovaldi (10-2) came out to start the ninth but was pulled after giving up a leadoff double to Miguel Sano. He allowed eight hits and walked one while reaching double-digit wins for the first time.

Headley had two big hits against Kyle Gibson (8-8) — the first a solo homer in the fifth that made it 1-all, and then a two-run single the next inning that knocked the Twins starter out of the game. □

Busch grabs elusive Indy victory as comeback continues

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kyle Busch's incredible comeback rolled through Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where Busch won the Brickyard 400 on Sunday for a weekend sweep at the historic track.

Busch missed the first 11 races of the season with a broken right leg and broken left foot. He returned in late May and has won three consecutive Sprint Cup Series races and four of the last five.

"This has been a phenomenal return," Busch said. "I won't say phenomenal year because it was a dismal year to start, but I guess I'll take that 11-week vacation any year if it's going to look like this."

Now he has a prestigious Brickyard victory to give him one of NASCAR's elusive crown jewels. His Indianapolis victory ranks alongside his Southern 500 win at

Darlington Raceway as the biggest of his career.

"Maybe I found my happy place," Busch said in victory lane when asked if he has found a new perspective since he was injured in a crash the day before the season-opening Daytona 500.

Busch, who also won the second-tier Xfinity Series race Saturday at Indianapolis, moved 23 points away from cracking the top 30 in the standings. NASCAR granted him a waiver that will make him eligible for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship should he be ranked inside the top 30 in points.

"We're a championship contending team, we just need to be championship eligible," Busch said.

The win for Joe Gibbs Racing was the first Sprint Cup Series victory at Indianapolis for Toyota, which has now won at all 23 active tracks.



Kyle Busch celebrates after winning the NASCAR Brickyard 400 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Sunday, July 26, 2015.

(AP Photo/AJ Mast)

Chevrolet had entered the race on a 12-year winning streak and had won 16 of the 21 Brickyards. The manufacturer also won the Indianapolis 500 in May with

Roger Penske driver Juan Pablo Montoya.

But Penske was denied his first Brickyard 400 win when Joey Logano finished second to Busch on Sunday in

a Ford.

"Geez, I guess Kyle's back," Daytona 500 winner Logano said. "It's just so frustrating running second at the Brickyard. Second hurts." □

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Jason Day of Australia rallies to win Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP) — Jason Day made himself right at home in the Canadian Open — at David Hearn's expense.

The Australian birdied the final three holes to win the national championship Sunday at Glen Abbey, spoiling Hearn's bid to become the first Canadian winner in 61 years.

"I've never felt so much at home, and I'm not even from Canada," Day said. "I'm looking forward to coming back and defending the title here next year because I know that when I get here next year it's going to be the same. It's great to feel like a Canadian for a week."

Day made a 20-foot putt on the par-5 18th for a 4-under 68 and a one-stroke victory over Bubba Watson. Hearn, two strokes ahead of Day and Watson



Jason Day celebrates after sinking a birdie putt on the 18th during final-round action at the Canadian Open golf tournament in Oakville, Ontario, Sunday, July 26, 2015. Day won the tournament. (Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press via AP)

entering the round, had a 72 to finish third — two strokes back.

"I'm real proud of the way I played and I'm really

proud to be Canadian today," Hearn said. "It was a pretty special day with all of the fans and the support that I had from beginning

to finish."

Pat Fletcher, born in England, was the last Canadian winner in 1954 at Point Grey in Vancouver, British

Columbia. Carl Keffer is the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914. Albert Murray, a Canadian also born in England, won in 1908 and 1913. "It was one focused mindset the whole day today to do something really special and win the tournament," said Hearn, from Brantford — also hockey great Wayne Gretzky's hometown. "It hasn't been done in a long time, and I felt like I had the ability to do it today. I gave it my all. I didn't quite have my best game." "It's a matter of time," fourth-place Jim Furyk said. "There are so many good Canadian players. I feel bad Mike Weir never won this golf tournament. But Graham DeLaet, David, there are a bunch of fine young players, so I'm sure it's going to happen." □

Lexi Thompson rallies to win Meijer LPGA Classic in Michigan

BELMONT, Mich. (AP) — Lexi Thompson made sure she didn't beat herself — and ended up defeating everyone else.

"I was just trying to be patient," Thompson said after rallying from four shots back to win the Meijer

LPGA Classic by a stroke Sunday. "Really, the whole day I was just trying to play my own game."

The 20-year-old Florida player closed with a 6-under 65 at Blythefield Country Club for her fifth LPGA Tour victory. She won for

the first time since the then-Kraft Nabisco Championship last year.

Thompson finished at 18-under 266 and earned \$300,000.

"I actually said when I was on 10 that my goal was to get to 20-under," Thompson

said. "I didn't get it up to that, but I was just trying to focus on my own game, focus on my pre-shot routine and having fun in between shots. I think that's what helped me."

Lizette Salas, four strokes ahead after the third round, tied for second with Gerina Piller. Salas finished with a 70, and Piller had a 64.

Thompson birdied Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 7 to catch Salas. Piller made five birdies on the front nine, with her birdie at No. 8 briefly tying her for the lead with Thompson and Salas.

But Thompson, ranked sev-

enth on the tour in average driving distance and greens in regulation, kept bombing drives, spinning wedge shots and making putts. A 6-footer for birdie off a wedge to the back pin on the 400-yard, par-4 16th put her three shots in front.

Thompson created some drama when she missed the green at No. 17 and rimmed a 4-foot par putt. She caught a good bounce off a tree down the right side of No. 18 on her tee shot, ripped a shot from the rough to the middle of the green and two-putted for a winning par. □



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Michelle Obama opens Special Olympics in Los Angeles



First Lady Michelle Obama declares the 2015 Special Olympics World Games officially open during the opening ceremony at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michelle Obama welcomed thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities to the Special Olympic World Games on Saturday during a festive opening ceremony filled with cheers, songs and praise for their courage and determination. "My husband and I, we are so proud of you, so incredibly proud of you, and we love you all from the bottom of our hearts," the first lady said. She said the athletes were an example to the millions of people watching the event on television.

She was introduced by Special Olympian Tim Harris, who owns a restaurant in New Mexico that he said serves "breakfast, lunch and hugs!" Mrs. Obama "knows the power of a hug," he said, and shared one with the first lady.

Earlier, President Barack Obama welcomed the athletes by video. About 6,500 athletes from 165 countries streamed into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to cheers and roars. The athletes will participate in 25 sports over nine days, ranging

from weightlifting to the triathlon. L.A. also hosted the Special Olympics in 1972. Applause greeted the athletes, from some 400 in the United States contingent



Athletes from Brazil enter the stadium during the opening ceremony of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

to a handful each from smaller countries. It was the largest gathering of athletes in Los Angeles since the 1984 Summer Olympics. The groups wore distinctive colors but carried no national flags. However, Special Olympics athletes and Olympic gold medalists including swimmer Michael

Phelps, diver Greg Louganis and skater Michelle Kwan together carried in the Special Olympics flag. A flaming torch carried from Greece was used to light the Coliseum's Olympic beacon. The three-hour ceremony, broadcast on ESPN, included Special Olympians at every level. Global ambassadors partnered with celebrities onstage and TV commentators. There were fireworks and musical performances by Avril Lavigne, Stevie Wonder, Colombian reggaeton artist J Balvin and others. "You are the special people of the world," Wonder told them. "You are the ones that will make a difference every single day. Your courage, your desire to make the world better by showing your love ... (and) in the way that you

they're going to light will truly burn forever because we don't have the water to put it out," Kimmel said.

Kimmel also praised the athletes. "You remind me of how deeply lazy a man I am," he said. □



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SAT, SUN & HOL 1:55 | 7:00

PAUL RUDD | MICHAEL DOUGLAS

ANT-MAN

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:25 | 9:30

FRI-SAT 4:25 | 9:30 | 12:05

SUN & HOL 4:25 | 9:30

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FRI 5:25 | 8:00 | 10:35

SAT 2:50 | 5:25 | 8:00 | 10:35

SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:25 | 8:00

NAT WOLFF | CARA DELEVINGNE

PAPER TOWNS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:10

FRI 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:10 | 11:35

SAT 2:00 | 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:10 | 11:35

SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:10

ADAM SANDLER | KEVIN JAMES

PIXELS 3D

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

3D VERSION

MON-FRI 4:20 | 9:00

SAT, SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 9:00

2D VERSION

MON-THURS 6:40

FRI-SAT 6:40 | 11:20

SUN & HOL 6:40

SANDRA BULLOCK | JON HAMM

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ON TWO SCREENS

3D VERSION

MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:45

FRI 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00

SAT 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00

SUN & HOL 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45

2D VERSION

MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:40

SAT, SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40

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Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz, Biggio enter Hall of Fame

JOHN KEKIS
AP Sports Writer

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Three pitchers who became dominant after trades and a rock-solid catcher-turned-second baseman have a new moniker — Hall of Famer. Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz and Craig Biggio were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday and basked in the spotlight one more time with at least 40,000 fans cheering from the sun-drenched field beyond.

For Martinez, the last to speak, the moment was magical as scores in the crowd waved Dominican flags for one of their own. Martinez, who also delivered part of his speech in Spanish, and former Giants great Juan Marichal, elected in 1983, are the only Hall of Famers from the Caribbean nation.

At the end of the ceremony, Martinez beckoned Marichal to the stage and they held their flag high, one last emotional gesture as the crowd roared.

"We waited 32 years for another Dominican,"

said Martinez, who wore a patch honoring his nation's flag on one shoulder

Playing through an era tainted by steroids and ruled by offense — compli-

reer, all with the Houston Astros, was indefatigable, becoming an All-Star at

Martinez, 219-100 for his career, helped the Red Sox break an 86-year-old World Series drought in 2004 and is the first Boston pitcher inducted. He grew up with five brothers and sisters in a one-room home on the outskirts of Santo Domingo and credits brother Ramon, a starter with the Dodgers during Pedro's rookie season in Los Angeles, as a key to his career. "I have a second dad," said Martinez, who won 117 games and two Cy Youngs in seven seasons pitching in hitter-friendly Fenway Park. "Ramon, you are my second dad. I followed in his footsteps and it led me to where I am today."

Remarkably, all three pitchers didn't stick around with their first clubs very long. Drafted by Montreal, Johnson made the Expos' roster in 1988 and midway through the 1989 season was traded to the Seattle Mariners.

Smoltz, signed by his hometown Detroit Tigers after being selected on the 22nd round of the 1985 amateur draft, was dealt to Atlanta for veteran Doyle Alexander in August 1987. □



Newly-inducted National Baseball Hall of Famers from left to right, Craig Biggio, John Smoltz, Randy Johnson and Pedro Martinez hold their plaques after an induction ceremony at the Clark Sports Center on Sunday, July 26, 2015, in Cooperstown, N.Y.
(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

and another honoring the United States on the other. "I hope all Dominicans remember this. I don't think the Dominican Republic will have a better image than me and Marichal on Father's Day (in the Dominican Republic) to be up there."

ments of bulked-up sluggers, a smaller strike zone and smaller ballparks — Johnson, Martinez and Smoltz proved indomitable. They combined for 735 wins, 11,113 strikeouts and nine Cy Young Awards. Biggio, who played four positions in his 20-year ca-

second base and behind the plate.

"We changed the culture in Houston by making it a baseball city," said Biggio, who grew up on New York's Long Island. "To the Astros fans, you guys are the greatest fans in the world."

Hamels throw first no-hitter against Cubs in 50 years

CHICAGO (AP) — Phillies ace Cole Hamels enhanced his trade value even more, becoming the first pitcher to throw a no-hitter against the Chicago Cubs in 50 years while leading Philadelphia to a 5-0 win in Major League Baseball on Saturday.

Hamels struck out 13 in the first no-hitter versus the Cubs since Sandy Koufax pitched a perfect game in 1965.

Hamels (6-7) threw his first career no-hitter in what could be his final start for

the Phillies. He was the Most Valuable Player of the 2008 World Series has been mentioned prominently in potential deals as the July 31 trade deadline approaches.

The 31-year-old lefthander was part of the Phillies' last no-hitter, too. He teamed with three relievers on a combined no-hitter last Sept. 1 at Atlanta.

In other games, Alex Rodriguez hit three home runs for the fifth time in his career to lead the New York Yankees to an 8-5 win over

Minnesota, Chris Davis hit his fifth career grand slam as Baltimore ended a four-game losing streak with a 5-1 victory over Tampa Bay, and league-leading St. Louis beat Atlanta 1-0 for its fifth straight win.

The Yankees trailed 5-0 early against the Twins. Rodriguez hit Glen Perkins' first pitch for a tying homer, and John Ryan Murphy later connected for a three-run shot.

Rodriguez hit 452-foot solo homer in the fourth and a 422-foot drive that made

it 5-3 in the seventh. His 424-foot homer in the ninth cleared the center field wall.

The last time Rodriguez hit three home runs in a game was Aug. 14, 2010, at Kansas City. He has 23 homers this season and 677 in his career.

Miguel Gonzalez took a shutout into the eighth inning to win for the third time in his last four starts for Baltimore.

Gonzalez (9-6) allowed one run and five hits over 7 2-3 innings. The right-hand-

er didn't issue a walk and struck out five.

Davis hit his 22nd homer of the season after J.J. Hardy, Jonathan Schoop and David Lough singled to load the bases against Erasmo Ramirez (8-4) in the third inning. St. Louis pinch-hitter Stephen Piscotty got his first career RBI with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Carlos Martinez outdueled former teammate Shelby Miller in the Cardinals' win. The Cardinals lead Major League Baseball with a 63-34 record. □



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YouTube makes virtual reality push with 360-degree 3-D

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

YouTube says it's making a further push into virtual reality, promising to add 3-D support for videos that play back in its 360-degree format.

Last week's announcement came a day after the debut of the first online 360-degree ad, a commercial for Bud Light.

Right now, viewers using the mobile YouTube app or Google's Chrome browser can pan around in any direction in the 360-degree videos. They're shot using special camera rigs that look in many directions, and software stitches together all the video.

Support for 3-D means wearers of headsets like Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR or Google Cardboard can see images in three dimensions as they swivel

around to change their view. YouTube also said it would provide special camera rigs that support the format at its studios around the world, including at two locations opening in the next year in Toronto and Mumbai.

YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki announced the push during VidCon, an annual convention for fans and creators of online video at the Anaheim Convention Center.

"We've seen big name artists like Avicii and Bjork do some breakthrough things with 3-D video, but we want to empower all of you to chart this new frontier," she said.

Wojcicki also announced a redesign of YouTube's mobile app that allows fans to be notified when creators they follow post new videos. It also adds editing tools for filters and



YouTube personality Colleen Ballinger, center, (creator of internet character Miranda Sings) shows her moves to the audience at YouNow community stage during the 6th annual VidCon held at Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif. The online video event ran July 23-25.

(Associated Press)

music within the app. The redesign is available for Android devices right away, with support for Apple devices coming soon. □

Fans enjoy chance to see online stars in person at VidCon

DERRIK J. LANG
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP) —

A swarm of spontaneous selfie sessions commenced in the lobby of the Anaheim Convention Center as hundreds of fans gathered for impromptu interaction with folks they watch online. There were no personal bodyguards or VIP areas. It's simply a sea of human energy.

"This is why you come to VidCon right here," said Nicole Perret, a 16-year-old high school student from San Diego, as she waited to pose for a photo with YouTube personality Olan

Rogers.

In its sixth year, such frenzied exchanges are commonplace at VidCon, the annual celebration of online video that kicked off Thursday and continued through Saturday. It's among the reasons the convention continues to expand its footprint and attract more corporate sponsors.

A few flights up on the third floor of the convention center, the VidCon experience is a much more subdued affair for the industry executives from online video networks, talent agencies and corpora-

tions who are gathering to discuss where the medium is headed and how to capitalize on those thousands of passionate viewers downstairs — and the millions more beyond the convention center.

"In our efforts to break down the walls, break down the barriers, change the game, change the industry and validate ourselves, we use all these numbers and analytics," said Sarah Weichel, a talent manager who has guided the careers of such popular YouTubers as Hannah Hart and Lilly Singh. "Frankly, I would encour-

age all of us to stop depending on it so much this year and start speaking more to the artistry."

For the first time since moving from a Los Angeles hotel to across the street from Disneyland four years ago, VidCon is occupying the entire Anaheim Convention Center to accommodate more sessions aimed at content creators and executives with such titles as "Building Brand Campaigns Across Multiple Services" and "Community Driven Platforms: Fandom and Fan Strategy."

Despite the medium garnering billions of viewers —

and dollars — online video content creators still say they are fighting for wider legitimacy. They're also not content only producing online videos.

"It's a really big problem that we all continue to have," said Rafi Fine, one half of the Fine Brothers, who have amassed over 12 million subscribers and crossed over into TV with shows for Nickelodeon and truTV. "It's holding us all back. So if we can have something like TV shows that do really well, it's only going to change the conversation about what we're all able to do." □

Anthem bids \$48B for Cigna: Mega-health deals bloom through July

**TOM MURPHY
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Anthem is buying rival Cigna for \$48 billion in a deal that would create the nation's largest health insurer by enrollment, covering about 53 million U.S. patients. In just three weeks, starting with Aetna's \$35 billion bid for Humana Inc. on July 3, the landscape of U.S. health care has been altered in a buyout frenzy that could transform five massive U.S. health companies into just three, including UnitedHealth Group. Larger insurers have negotiating power to squeeze

lion including debt. Shareholders of Cigna, based in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will receive \$103.40 per share in cash and 0.5152 shares of Anthem stock for each of their shares. The companies put the total value at \$188 per share. Anthem CEO Joseph Swedish said during a teleconference Friday that the combined company would "advance affordability, choice, access and quality." But the merger's impact will take time to be felt by consumers, because insurers have already finalized most of their plans for coverage that starts in January. Insurance industry consul-

control over an issue as significant and sensitive as patient health care is bad for patients and not good for the nation's health care system," said Steven Stack, in a statement. Anthem's combination with Cigna would create a much broader base over which to spread costs and expenses, and the technology investments it makes would be extended over the industry's biggest customer pool. Data and technology are playing a growing role in monitoring patients and care. At a very basic level, that means things like tracking whether patients are keeping up with their immunizations.



This photo shows the Anthem logo at the health insurer's corporate headquarters in Indianapolis. Anthem is buying rival Cigna, in a deal valued at \$54.2 billion announced Friday, July 24, 2015, that will create the nation's largest health insurer by enrollment, covering about 53 million patients in the U.S.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

better rates from drug companies and health care providers. But the wave of consolidation could lead to fewer choices for consumers in certain markets. Regulators scrutinizing the two mega-deals will be trying to assess whether these combined companies would have so much power that they could dominate markets and drive already high health-care costs even higher. Employer-sponsored health insurance is growing slowly and with the recent overhaul of the nation's health care system, providers are jostling for the largest share of the millions of people who have signed up. The deal announced Friday is valued at \$54.2 bil-

lion including debt. Shareholders of Cigna, based in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will receive \$103.40 per share in cash and 0.5152 shares of Anthem stock for each of their shares. The companies put the total value at \$188 per share. Anthem CEO Joseph Swedish said during a teleconference Friday that the combined company would "advance affordability, choice, access and quality." But the merger's impact will take time to be felt by consumers, because insurers have already finalized most of their plans for coverage that starts in January. Insurance industry consul-

tant Robert Laszewski said insurers are bulking up to negotiate with bigger hospital systems, which are going through their own round of consolidation. The resulting "arms race" does not bode well for consumers. "It means they have fewer choices and there isn't much incentive for either side to really get more efficient," Laszewski said. "Once they check each other they settle into this detente" The American Medical Association, which represents U.S. physicians, voiced similar concerns Friday and called for close scrutiny by federal regulators. "To give commercial health insurers virtually unlimited power to exert

Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors to end its US production

**ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
Associated Press**

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — Mitsubishi Motors confirmed late last week that it plans to stop production at its only U.S. factory and sell the plant in central Illinois that has more than 1,200 workers.

The Japanese automaker reviewed its global supply chain and decided it was necessary to end production at the plant and find a buyer, said Dan Irvin, the company's North American spokesman. The announcement came after Japanese media reported the automaker had decided to end production in the U.S. to focus on Asian markets.

Irvin said Mitsubishi's board will soon make a formal decision on what will happen to the plant in Normal, Illinois, about 100 miles southwest of Chicago. Company officials hope to find a buyer that will maintain the factory's employment. The president of UAW Local 2488, Rod DeVary, said workers were told Friday that the plant will cease production on Nov. 30.

Annual production at the plant, which makes the Outlander SUV, has fallen to 64,000 vehicles from more than 200,000 in 2002. The company sold only 82,000 vehicles in the U.S. last year — less than 1 percent of the total market.

Japan's leading business newspaper, the Nikkei, reported that Mitsubishi would be the first major Japanese automaker to end production in both the U.S. and Europe. The company has built a plant in Thailand, bought one from Ford in the Philippines, and is building one in Indonesia.

Illinois state Sen. Bill Brady, whose district includes Normal, said he and other state officials were already working on a plan to find another manufacturer to buy the factory.

"We are going to do everything we can to make sure people know that Mitsubishi no longer needs the facility, but that this is a facility that has a very efficient, world-class workforce and a supplier network that's second to none," he said.

Brady also said he has talked to Mitsubishi officials have assured him that "Mitsubishi's effort to sell the plant "will not be about getting top dollar for the sale but about doing the right thing."

The plant is the only Japanese-owned auto factory with UAW representation. The union contract at the plant expires next month, with negotiations set to begin in earnest on Monday, said DeVary.

Both Brady and Normal Mayor Chris Koos stressed that Mitsubishi's decision was not about labor issues but because of dramatically falling sales. Brady said the hope now is that the closure of the plant, which had been not been used to capacity as sales fell, "may bring the opportunity to more fully use the capacity of the plant and bring more jobs."

State and local officials would not identify specific companies they plan to recruit, but said they would not limit their outreach efforts to automakers.

"We're confident that we will be able to attract a replacement company in relatively short order," Koos said.

One industry analyst said factors such as the location of the plant and its proximity to a network of suppliers for the Detroit automobile industry could make it attractive to another automaker. But Karl Brauer, a senior analyst for Kelley Blue Book, also said that given Mitsubishi's the financial straits over the past decade, he doubts the company has invested much in technology to bring the plant up to date. □



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Bull Run:

Scary headlines and dire predictions don't deter investors

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. economy is growing at a painfully slow pace. Greece still threatens the euro. Chinese stocks have just pulled out of a frightening free-fall. Big companies in the U.S. are struggling to boost profits.

You might think it's been a rough year for investors, but it's mostly been a smooth ride — and a profitable one.

Money is flowing into bonds issued by the riskiest of companies, home prices in some big U.S. cities are soaring, shares of technology companies are still near all-time highs — even after a drop this week — and auction houses are enjoying record sales of art. A Picasso painting sold at Christie's for \$179 million in May, the highest ever for an artwork at auction, prompting one dealer to exclaim, "I don't really see an end to it."

Neither do many on Wall Street. The so-called fear index, a figure measuring the odds of big swings in stock prices, is hovering near a multi-year low. The ranks of "short-only" investors, who bet that stocks will drop, have thinned to near extinction. A traditional haven for spooked folks, gold, fell to \$1,085 an ounce on Friday, down more than 40 percent in four years.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer of BMO Private Bank, thinks people have faced so many crises that they have become numb to fear. "Things have worked out," he says, "and that has emboldened investors."

Maybe too much.

For years, U.S. companies have kept profits rising by cutting costs to overcome slow sales. But they're lean

now and it's getting harder to do that. In the past week, IBM, United Technologies, Caterpillar and Union Pacific fell after posting disappointing earnings or revenue for the latest quarter. "Ultimately, there comes a point where you can't cut more," says Kevin Dorwin, managing principal of San Francisco-based financial planner Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough. "You've got to grow the top line."

After all results for the April-June period are tallied, analysts expect earnings per share for companies in the Standard and Poor's 500 index to drop from a year earlier, the first decline since 2009, according to financial data provider S&P Capital IQ. Revenue is forecast to fall for a second quarter in a row, nearly unheard of outside a recession, as Americans still hold back on spending six years after the financial crisis.

It's gotten to the point that even the biggest bulls are conceding that, yes, after a tripling of prices since 2009, stocks are getting a tad expensive or, to use their delicate phrase, "fully valued."

Homes in hot markets like Miami and Seattle are looking pricey, too. In San Francisco, prices have jumped 61 percent in just three years, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index.

People are also putting money into "high yield" bonds, so called because the iffy companies that sell them must offer fat interest payments to get you to open your wallet. Or at least they used to. So heavy has been demand for the bonds, that these companies are paying interest of 6.6 percent, versus 10 percent four years ago.

James Abate, chief investment officer of Centre Funds, thinks investors are too confident, and maybe a little blind.

Earnings per share jumped

2007-2009, thinks another one is likely. Since he made that prediction, China has slowed dramatically, Brazil has fallen into recession, and five of the 10 biggest

next. It also assumes that the companies' versions of earnings, the "adjusted" ones that Abate so distrusts, are reliable.

Of course, it might all work



Specialist Robert Tuccillo, foreground, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. History suggests it's unwise to bet against this bull market. It's kept rising despite two Greece debt crises, a near default by the U.S. on its own debt, also twice, the stripping of its AAA credit rating, several towns and cities going bankrupt, including Detroit, the biggest ever, and, recently, Beijing's failed efforts to avert a crash in its stock market, raising the possibility it might not succeed in letting the air out of a massive credit and property bubble without tripping up the world's second biggest economy and sending markets elsewhere crashing.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

in previous quarters, he notes, partly because earnings were spread over fewer shares after companies bought back billions of dollars of them. He also complains that financial analysts have focused too much on "adjusted" earnings that leave out all types of one-time costs. That makes companies look more profitable than they are.

He's bracing himself for disappointing earnings from many companies. "I think we're on the verge of an earnings recession," he says.

Or maybe just a recession. Most economists scoff at the idea, but David Levy, one of the few who called the last global recession in

global economies are either in one or teetering on the edge. The economy of Canada, America's biggest trading partner, has shrunk for four straight months.

Financial analysts are largely shrugging off the fears. They like that stocks in the S&P 500 index are trading at 17.6 times their expected earnings for the next 12 months, according to S&P Capital IQ. That earnings multiple, as it's called, is only slightly higher — meaning more expensive — than the 15-year average of 16 times.

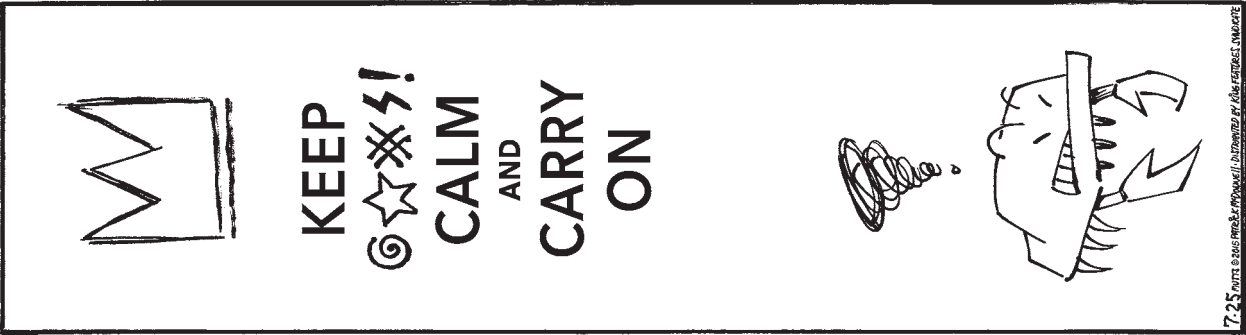
But that assumes the analysts are correct and profits will start growing again this year, then leap by double-digit percentages the

out in the end.

U.S. employers are hiring at a solid pace, so it's possible all those extra paychecks will spark more spending and higher revenue and profits. History also suggests it's unwise to bet against a bull market that has stretched into a seventh year. Prices have kept rising despite two Greek debt crises, a near debt default by the U.S. government, and, recently, Beijing's failed efforts to avert a crash in its stock market.

"You can always tick off a list of worries," says one optimist, Mike Ryan, chief investment strategist at UBS Wealth Management Americas, "but markets tend to climb a wall of worry." □

Mutts



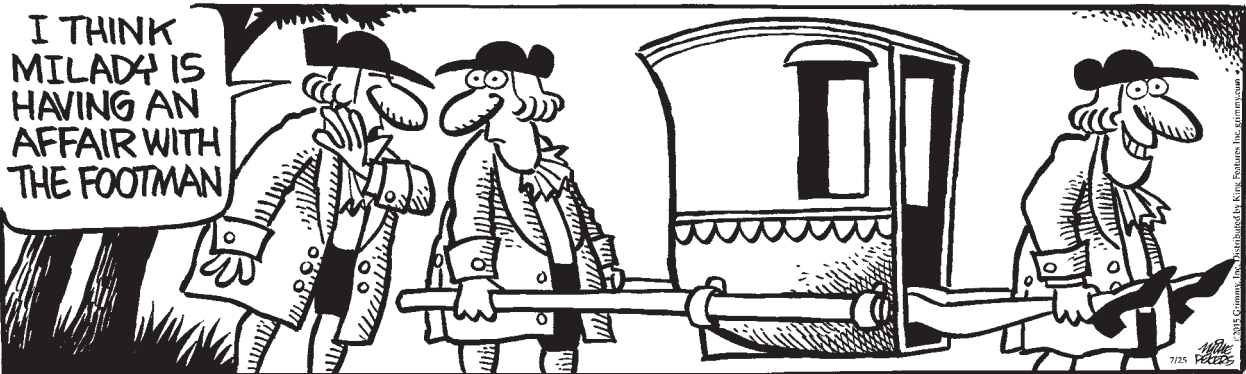
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			8		6		2	
								1
9		4		2		5	8	
	7	1		9				
				6				
				5		2	6	
	8	3		1		9		5
7								
	1		3		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	2	5	6	9	3	7	4	1
7	4	6	1	8	2	5	3	9
9	1	3	7	5	4	2	8	6
3	7	9	8	2	1	6	5	4
6	5	4	3	7	9	1	2	8
1	8	2	4	6	5	9	7	3
5	9	8	2	4	6	3	1	7
2	3	7	9	1	8	4	6	5
4	6	1	5	3	7	8	9	2

ACROSS

- 1 Work hard
- 5 Prayer before meals
- 10 Des Moines, __
- 14 __ Domini; A.D.
- 15 Competitor
- 16 Night light
- 17 Clutter
- 18 Partially covered the edge of
- 20 Fraternity letter
- 21 Colors
- 22 Impudent
- 23 Apparition
- 25 __-tac-toe
- 26 Orb; globe
- 28 Detest
- 31 Prefix for violet or sound
- 32 Inexperienced
- 34 Elderly
- 36 TKO declarers
- 37 Epic by Homer
- 38 __ shirt; casual top
- 39 __ de cologne
- 40 Sourpuss
- 41 Traveler's stop
- 42 Zigzag skiing
- 44 Natural gift
- 45 Actor Aykroyd
- 46 Ambulance's blaring device
- 47 Criminal
- 50 Hairless on top
- 51 Billboards
- 54 Indirect
- 57 Make a tiny cut
- 58 "Nay" voter
- 59 Jitterbug or jig
- 60 " __ upon a time..."
- 61 __ up; spends
- 62 Burned-out
- 63 Recolored

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
26												
31												
36												
39												
47												
54												
58												
61												

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/25/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

UGH	ABHOR	LUCK
SOUL	DRAP	ASAN
ALGA	LIVES	RENO
	DET	GREW
	TABS	ARE
SPRIGS	MOTORIST	
ALICE	CAGEY	CUR
BASE	THIRD	HIRE
ENE	FRAME	HINGE
RESCUERS	RAGGED	
	INA	PATH
CLOG	SUPERSEDE	
IOWA	UNITE	SEAS
TIER	RILES	TARP
ENDS	EVERET	FLY

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7/25/15

DOWN

- 1 Pat down soil
- 2 Dollar bills
- 3 Wise; discerning
- 4 __ Angeles, CA
- 5 Ground-dwelling game bird
- 6 Heavy bolt

- 7 Abbrs. in some addresses
- 8 Automobile
- 9 Building wing, often
- 10 Have an effect on
- 11 Fumbler's word
- 12 Misfortunes
- 13 Actor Griffith
- 19 Of China or Japan
- 21 Circle dance
- 24 His and __; like matching items for Dad & Mom
- 25 __ the line; obeyed
- 26 Certain
- 27 Tearful petitions
- 28 Jump
- 29 Songfest
- 30 Actress Burstyn
- 32 Long-faced
- 33 Curved edge
- 35 Doofus
- 37 Press clothing
- 38 North __; Santa's home

- 40 Thyroid or pituitary
- 41 Difficult
- 43 Handsome young man
- 44 Lopsided
- 46 Hollandaise or Tabasco
- 47 German wife

- 48 Long periods
- 49 Early guitar
- 50 James __; 007
- 52 Casino cubes
- 53 Ran fast
- 55 Part of speech: abbr.
- 56 Pasture cry
- 57 Layer of turf

Escaped Mexican drug lord no saint, but lesser evil at home

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

BADIRAGUATO, Mexico

(AP) — People living in the hometown of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman have heard stories of his benevolence: gifts of medicine for the poor, deliveries of drinking water to storm-stricken towns. But finding anyone who's actually received or even seen such a gift is another matter.

In Badiraguato, the small mountain town that is part of Guzman's rags-to-crime riches mythology, none of the two dozen people interviewed by The Associated Press could point out evidence of his legendary largesse.

"I don't see a single building producing jobs, a single piece of public works, a soccer field, a sewer, a school, water systems, a clinic or hospital, not a single one that you can say was built by drug traffickers or their money," Mayor Mario Valenzuela said.

If Guzman or his cartel had invested in their hometowns, he said, "they'd look different: They would have paved roads or drainage systems, but they don't."

Guzman's escape on July 11 from a prison near Mexico City has focused attention again on Badiraguato, the county seat of a township that includes the hamlet of La Tuna, where El Chapo's mother still lives.

The roads to La Tuna are still washed-out dirt tracks, and Badiraguato itself has none of the flashy accoutrements of money — luxury car dealerships, palatial mausoleums, acres of fancy, gated communities of new homes, or dozens of street money-changers

offering cheap dollars — that are abundant in Culiacan, the state capital, 1 1/2 hours away. The town's big projects include a new balcony for the town hall that looks out over the sleepy square dominated by a 19th-century church, where residents seek shade from the punishing Sinaloa sun.

Tucked into the foothills where the coastal stretches of flat corn and tomato fields meet the imposing



Mayor Mario Valenzuela speaks during an interview in Badiraguato, Mexico. " (AP Photo/Fernando Brito)

mountains of the Sierra Madre, Badiraguato remains mired in poverty, Valenzuela acknowledges that many of the township's residents make a living growing marijuana or opium poppies.

Guzman grew up here, the son of a poor farmer. His rise as a crime boss has been surrounded by mythology, a Hollywood version of an old-school Mafioso — ruthless, but yet honorable. Songs have been written in his honor and some locals extol him as a Robin Hood-type figure who is careful to leave innocents out of his deadly score-settlings.

"Chapo Guzman isn't violent," Valenzuela said about a man accused of

hundreds of murders. "He doesn't shoot it out with the government."

That's unlike the reputation of the New Generation Jalisco cartel to the south, which is alleged to have brought down a military helicopter May 1 with a rocket-propelled missile. Or the Zetas, who've fueled their notoriety in central Mexico with grisly beheadings and the hanging of bodies across public highways. Or Guerreros Unidos,

said, leaves ordinary people alone, "there is a certain respect."

Still, the man in his 30s wouldn't give his last name for fear of reprisals. Badiraguato is not immune to violence. □

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Deep-sea mining looms on horizon as UN body issues contracts

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— The deep oceans span more than half the globe and their frigid depths have long been known to contain vast, untapped deposits of prized minerals. These treasures of the abyss, however, have always been out of reach to miners.

But now, the era of deep seabed mining appears to be dawning fueled by technological advances in robotics and dwindling land-based deposits. Rising demand for copper, cobalt, gold and the rare-earth elements vital in manufacturing smartphones and other high-tech products is causing a prospecting rush to the dark seafloor thousands of meters (yards) beneath the waves.

With authorities at the Jamaica-based International Seabed Authority issuing exploration contracts, alarmed conservationists are warning that the deep ocean's fragile biodiversity must be protected and not nearly enough is known about the risks of extracting minerals from seabeds. "The pace of activity has increased dramatically over the last five years," said Michael Lodge, deputy secretary-general of the obscure U.N. body in Kingston that acts as a global steward of the deep seafloor and is tasked with

regulating this new mining frontier. "We're seeing the private sector invest in a big way."

The U.N. agency, known by

Oceans.

Governments and private companies have been moving so rapidly to stake claims and assess deposits

started drafting a framework to regulate commercial exploitation of seafloor metals and minerals. The session ended Friday.

contract, a 72,745 square kilometer (28,087 sq. mile) permit in the Pacific to China Minmetals Corp., sponsored by Beijing. China now has the most permits from the U.N. body with four. ISA was launched in 1994 and operates under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. The only major maritime power that has not ratified the convention is the United States, where lawmakers have argued it could impinge on U.S. economic and military sovereignty. The Department of the Interior has granted exploration licenses in the Pacific to Lockheed Martin Corp., a U.S. company that has also partnered with the United Kingdom, an ISA member, by setting up a deep-sea mining subsidiary there.

So far, most of ISA's contracts have been issued for the deep abyssal plains of the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone, a sprawling area of the Pacific Ocean off Mexico and the U.S. At depths of 4,000 to 6,000 meters, it is known to be rich in nodules containing copper, cobalt, manganese and significant concentrations of rare-earth elements. As part of an environmental plan, ISA has set aside nine areas in this zone, prohibiting them to contractors.

Other coveted exploration areas contain copper-rich sulphides formed around hydrothermal vents and black cobalt crusts created along the slopes of seamounts and volcanic mountain ranges. These biologically complex areas are found in the Western Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. ISA literature estimates that one site could provide up to 25 percent of the annual global market for cobalt. □



Coral reefs grow in the waters of Tatawa Besar, Komodo islands, Indonesia. Rising demand for copper, cobalt, gold and the rare-earth elements vital in manufacturing smartphones and other high-tech products is causing a prospecting rush to the dark seafloor thousands of meters (yards) beneath the waves. The Jamaica-based International Seabed Authority has issued 27 separate 15-year contracts that allow for mineral prospecting on over 1 million square kilometers (over 390,000 sq. miles) of seabed in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

(AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

its initials ISA, presides over seabed outside the exclusive territorial waters of individual countries. So far, it has issued 27 exploration contracts, the large majority of them since 2011. The 15-year contracts allow for mineral prospecting on over 1 million square kilometers (over 390,000 sq. miles) of seabed in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian

that insiders forecast that commercial deep-sea mining could start within the next five years using robotic collectors equipped with cameras and sonar sensors along with pipe systems that can siphon crushed minerals to ships. During a gathering this month in Jamaica of representatives from nearly 170 member states, ISA has

A group of international scientists, in a July 9 article in the journal Science, urged ISA to temporarily halt authorization of new mining contracts until networks of "marine protected areas" are established around areas targeted for mining.

"We owe it to future generations to ensure that we think before we act and gain a thorough understanding of the potential impacts of mining in the deep sea before any mining is permitted," said Matthew Gianni, co-founder of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which sent observers to ISA's 21st session in Kingston.

But despite the warnings, in recent days ISA authorized its latest exploration

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'Ant-Man' inches past 'Pixels' to take first-place spot



This photo provided by Disney shows Paul Rudd as Scott Lang/Ant-Man in a scene from Marvel's "Ant-Man."
(Z. Rosenthal/Disney/Marvel/AP)

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Ant-Man" crept past new opener "Pixels" to claim the top spot at the box office this weekend by an ant-sized margin. The Disney and Marvel superhero pic brought in \$24.8 million over the weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$106.1 million according to Rentrak estimates Sunday. "Pixels," meanwhile, just barely missed first place with a \$24 million debut. While studios always hope for the bragging rights of a No. 1 debut, the real issue here is whether or not the Adam Sandler end of the world comedy will make up its \$88 million production budget.

"It's been a little competitive in the marketplace when you consider the extent of the performance of

'Jurassic' and 'Inside Out,'" said Sony's President of Worldwide Distribution Rory Bruer. "To get to where we opened to was quite good."

Critics were not fond of "Pixels," which shows 1980s video arcade game characters attacking Earth, but younger audiences still turned out to theaters — an estimated 62 percent were under the age of 25.

Paul Dergarabedian, Rentrak's senior media analyst, said Sandler can still attract an audience, but the expensive film has a lot of ground to make up.

"They're really going to have to count on the international component. That's going to be key," he said.

Overall, the box office is down 3 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Lucy" opened par-

ticularly strong. Dergarabedian said that though some are attempting to link last week's theater shootings to any dip in the box office this weekend, "the numbers just don't bear it out." Holdovers "Minions" and "Trainwreck" took the third and fourth spots with \$22.1 million and \$17.3 million, respectively. Meanwhile, the R-rated boxing drama "Southpaw"

surpassed expectations and landed a place in the top five with its \$16.5 million opening.

Dergarabedian said that its performance is likely due to star Jake Gyllenhaal's enthusiastic promotion of the film and also the fact that it provides an alternative to the standard summer blockbuster fare.

"'Southpaw' felt like a really good fall movie," he said.

"Paper Towns," an adaptation of John Green's coming-of-age novel, opened in sixth place with \$12.5 million. The Fox film only cost \$12 million to produce, but considering Green's fan base and last year's massive \$48 million debut of "The Fault in Our Stars," which Green also wrote, it's a bit disappointing. A straight comparison isn't entirely fair, though. □

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Newport Jazz Festival to mark Miles Davis' 60th anniversary

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Miles

Davis wasn't even listed in the program book when he appeared for the first time at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1955, but he made his presence felt with a career-reviving performance.

This year's program book is Miles-centric as the festival, which begins Friday, celebrates the 60th anniversary of the late jazz legend's historic Newport debut.

Newport festival founder George Wein recalls that weeks before the 1955 festival, he ran into Davis at a New York jazz club. Wein had created the first-ever outdoor jazz festival in the Rhode Island seaside resort the year before, and Davis asked if he was going to do it again.

"I said yes, and Miles said, 'You can't have a festival without me,' and he kept repeating that," said Wein, who at 89 is still producing the festival.

But Davis, who had just kicked a heroin habit, didn't have his own band. Wein arranged to add him to an all-star jam session that also included pianist

Thelonious Monk and baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan.

"Miles was the hit of the festival," Wein said. "He put his trumpet right into the microphone and it came through loud and clear on 'Round Midnight.'"

Backstage, Columbia Records producer George Avakian asked the trumpeter to sign with the label — the beginning of a 30-year relationship that saw Davis release classic recordings that changed the direction of jazz.

When Davis next appeared at Newport in 1958 he brought his famed sextet — with saxophonists John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderley and pianist Bill Evans — that the following spring would record his masterpiece "Kind of Blue," one of the best-selling jazz records. These performances can be heard on "Miles Davis At Newport 1955-1975: The Bootleg Series Vol. 4," a four-CD box set comprised of eight live performances at the Newport festival and spinoff events in Europe and New York, released earlier this month by Columbia/Legacy.

The collection includes nearly four hours of previously unreleased material, including complete performances from the 1966 and 1967 festivals with Davis' second great quintet — with pianist Herbie Hancock, saxophonist Wayne Shorter, bassist Ron Carter, and drummer Tony Williams — at their peak.

This year's festival will feature panel discussions focusing on Davis, curated by Grammy-winning jazz historian Ashley Kahn, which will include interviews with Wein and former Davis sidemen, drummer Jack DeJohnette and guitarist Mike Stern, at a new intimate indoor stage named after Wein's former Storyville jazz club in Boston. DeJohnette performed with Davis at the 1969 festival with a group that included Chick Corea on electric keyboard as the trumpeter was making the transition from acoustic jazz to jazz-rock fusion music. Davis spent the weekend checking out the rock bands on the program such as Sly and the Family Stone and Led Zeppelin, and just weeks later began record-



In this June, 1987 photo, American jazz musician Miles Davis performs in the old Roman Amphitheater in Caesarea, North of Tel Aviv, Israel. Davis appeared for the first time at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1955 and gave a career-reviving performance. This year's program book is Miles-centric as the festival, which begins July 31 at Fort Adams State Park, celebrates the 60th anniversary of the jazz legend's historic Newport debut.

(AP Photo)

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ing his groundbreaking electronic "Bitches Brew" album.

"Wayne Shorter was supposed to play that day at Newport, but got delayed and we played as a quartet with Miles really stretching ... and the result was pretty exciting," said DeJohnette, who will be performing this year with his band Made In Chicago. "It was a real open experimental time. Everyone was reaching for different new ways to express their music and break down boundaries."

Wein has also asked the trumpeters on this coming weekend's program — Chris Botti, Peter Evans, Jon Faddis, Tom Harrell, Arturo Sandoval and Bria Skonberg — to perform at least one Miles Davis number.

For Botti, it was easy to accommodate Wein's request. He's been opening his shows for the past year with "Concierto de Aran-

juez," from Davis' 1960 album "Sketches of Spain."

"Miles is the reason I wanted to become a professional trumpet player," Botti said in an email. "When I first heard his sound on 'My Funny Valentine,' it hit me like a lightning bolt about how the emotion of the trumpet can make somebody feel things."

Botti will be headlining Friday night's concert at the Newport Casino. The opening act will be Jon Batiste and Stay Human, recently chosen by Stephen Colbert to be the new house band on "The Late Show." Evans, whose quintet will be making their Newport debut at Friday's program at Fort Adams State Park dedicated to emerging artists, plans to play "Great Expectations," the opening track on Davis' underrated 1974 album "Big Fun," which featured electric sitar and other Indian instruments. □

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